
AP[®] World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

Inside:

Short-Answer Question 4

- ☒ Scoring Guidelines
- ☒ Student Samples
- ☒ Scoring Commentary

Question 4: Short Answer No Stimulus**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

A Identify one factor that contributed to the outbreak of revolutions in the period circa 1750 to 1900. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The spread of Enlightenment ideas contributed to revolutions across the Atlantic region during the period 1750 to 1900.
- The success of the American and French Revolutions contributed to the outbreak of further revolutions in Latin America and Haiti during the period 1750 to 1900.
- The weakening of the Spanish overseas empire contributed to the outbreak of revolutions across Latin America.

B Explain one way that revolutionary movements used ideologies in their attempts to change societies during the period circa 1750 to 1900. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Revolutionary movements applied Enlightenment ideas like natural rights to establish new laws or constitutions that protected the rights of their citizens.
 - Revolutionary movements like the French Revolution used nationalism to fight in numerous conflicts across Europe and expand the Napoleonic Empire.
 - The Haitian Revolution used anti-colonial nationalism to reject French rule and seek self-determination and establish an independent sovereign state.
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- C** Explain one way in which revolutionary movements were challenged as they attempted to change societies during the period circa 1750 to 1900. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Revolutionaries faced opposition from powerful states and empires who mobilized their armies and economic resources to suppress opposition.
 - Revolutionary movements experienced resistance from established elites, for example opposition by plantation owners against the enslaved persons' rebellion in the Haitian revolution.
 - Nationalist revolutionary movements faced opposition from established states and empires in their attempts to liberate or unify nation-states, as seen, for example, in the Ottoman suppression of nationalist revolts in the Balkans.
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A. One factor that greatly contributed to the outbreak of revolutions during the 1750s-1900s was the beginning of European Enlightenment ideals spreading globally into societies. Enlightenment ideals proclaimed that every human had natural rights and liberties and when restricted, had right to resist and revolt. Revolutions such as the Haitian Revolution exemplify these ideas as they overturned the social hierarchy and fought against colonial oppression, giving rights to former slaves and neglected peoples, aligning with Enlightenment ideas and revealing the effect that Enlightenment had in inspiring global revolutions.

B. One way that revolutionary movements used ideologies in their attempts to change society during the 1750s to 1900s was through the implementation of Enlightenment ideals into independence movements. The Declaration of Independence drafted by American revolutionaries, such as Thomas Jefferson, heavily mirrored ideas taught by Enlightenment thinker John Locke. This inspiration for independence used by American revolutionaries demonstrates how revolutionary movements took heavily from ideologies that promoted the goals they wished to achieve, primarily being independence and the rights for people.

C. One way in which revolutionary movements were challenged as they attempted to change societies was through conflicts waged by European elites to preserve their power and status. During the Latin American revolts during the 1800s, creole revolutionaries faced opposition to the peninsular elites who wished to maintain the power and wealth they held within Spanish colonies. These ideas became expressed through European conservatives who sought to maintain the social order already established as they feared instability and loss of power, fueling opposition to rivaling independence movements beginning to spread globally.

A. Enlightenment ideas contributed to the outbreak of revolutions in the period circa 1750-1900 by promoting ideas of natural rights and the right of the people to overthrow a government that doesn't protect the natural rights.

B. Revolutionary movements used peaceful ideologies to gain support for the movement by making it safe. For example, in British-India, Mahatma Gandhi promoted nonviolent actions of protest to push and promote ideas of independence to the greater society. His religion created this belief system and later gained followers through its success. By ensuring that those who joined the protest would remain safe, the popularity grew. This helped to create a large support system for independence and gain the attention and respect of the British government.

C. Revolutionary movements were challenged by using military force. One example of a large revolutionary movement during this time was the Haitian revolution. The large scale slave rebellion was met with a large military presence from the French government, in many battles. The government supported the upper-class slave owners and supplied many military technologies in hopes of suppressing the uproar. In the end, the rebels were successful and gained freedom and independence. This rebellion changed the economy, government and society vastly but was put up against a great challenge in the process.

- A. Enlightenment ideals played a huge role in the outbreak of revolutions during 1750-1900. The spread of Enlightenment ideas such as liberty, equality and popular sovereignty.
- B. Revolutionary movements used ideologies to support and justify their action.
- C. Revolutionary movements faced challenges from both internal and external forces trying to change societies.

Short Answer Question 4

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses* on [AP Central](#).

Sample: 4A

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for Part A because it identifies the spread of Enlightenment ideas “globally into societies” as a factor that contributed to the outbreak of revolutions in the period circa 1750 to 1900. Although not needed to earn the point, the response also goes on to explain how the spread of Enlightenment ideas influenced the outbreak of the Haitian revolution.

The response earned 1 point for Part B because it explains how revolutionaries used Enlightenment ideals such as “independence and the rights for people” to change society. The response supports this explanation by discussing Thomas Jefferson’s use of the ideas of John Locke in the United States Declaration of Independence and concludes that such adoption shows “how revolutionary movements took heavily from ideologies.”

The response earned 1 point for Part C because it explains how revolutionary movements were challenged “through conflicts waged by European elites to preserve their power and status.” The response develops this explanation further by providing details from the Latin American independence movements, where “creole revolutionaries faced opposition to the peninsular elites who wished to maintain the power and wealth they held within Spanish colonies.”

Sample: 4B

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 0

SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for Part A because it identifies Enlightenment ideals as a factor that contributed to the outbreak of revolutions in the period circa 1750 to 1900. Although not needed to earn the point for an identification task, the response also explains that Enlightenment ideas also included “the right of the people to overthrow a government that doesn’t protect the natural rights.”

The response did not earn the point for Part B. The response makes the claim that “Revolutionary movements used peaceful ideologies to gain support for the movement by making it safe” and uses the example of Gandhi and the Indian independence movement, but this example is outside of the time period of the prompt, and the claim Gandhi relied on non-violence to ensure that “that those who joined the protest would remain safe” does not address directly the ideological underpinnings of the concept of non-violent resistance.

Short Answer Question 4 (continued)

The response earned 1 point for Part C because it explains how revolutionary movements were challenged “by using military force,” during the Haitian Revolution as the revolutionaries were met with a large military presence from the French government, in many battles. The response further explains that the French government challenged the revolutionaries by supporting the “upper-class slave owners.”

Sample: 4C**SAQ Part A Score: 1****SAQ Part B Score: 0****SAQ Part C Score: 0****Total Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for Part A because it identifies “Enlightenment ideas such as liberty [and] equality” as factors that contributed to the outbreak of revolutions. The reference to “poor sovereignty” is unclear and was treated as a read-through error.

The response did not earn the point for Part B because the statement that “Revolutionary movements used to ideologies to support and justify their action” is not an explanation.

The response did not earn the point for Part C because the statement that “Revolutionary movements faced challenges from both internal and external forces” as they tried to change societies is not an explanation.